

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005872

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM OTTAWA DATED JANUARY 6, 1978 SENT SEC-
STATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA, ATHENS, BONN, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE,
LISBON, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, OSLO, PARIS, REYKJAVIK, ROME,
USNATO IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 00075

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: NATO, IT, CA

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF NEW NATO DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: USNATO 73

1. EXTAFF DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY (FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS)
GOLDSCHLAG TOLD DCM JANUARY 5 THAT GOC IS INCENSED WITH
RESPONSE WHICH SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS GAVE TO PERMREP
HARDY'S REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING CANADIAN CANDIDATE FOR
D/SYG POSITION.

2. WHEN HARDY CALLED ON LUNS ON JANUARY 5, HE WAS ABLE
TO GET NO FURTHER THAN BRIEF INDICATION OF CANADA'S IN-
TEREST BEFORE LUNS CUT HIM OFF BY SAYING THAT HE WAS
ALREADY COMMITTED TO ITALIAN CANDIDATE AND THAT NOTHING
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HARDY MIGHT SAY COULD ALTER THIS COMMITMENT.

3. IN DESCRIBING REASONS FOR GOC'S ANNOYANCE, GOLDSCHLAG
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) LUNS APPEARS TO HAVE COMMITTED HIMSELF TO
ITALIAN CANDIDATE EVEN BEFORE ITALY HAD MADE

SPECIFIC NOMINATION. IN FACT, ITALIAN PERMREP CIRCULATED BIO ON THEIR CANDIDATE ONLY AFTER LUNS HAD ALREADY CALLED MEETING OF PERMREPS TO ANNOUNCE HIS COMMITMENT TO ITALY.

(B) CANADA FIRMLY REJECTS NOTION THAT ITALY SHOULD HAVE ANY SPECIAL CLAIM TO D/SYG POSITION. GOLDSCHLAG POINTED OUT THAT CANADA HAS BEEN LOYAL AND ACTIVE CONTRIBUTOR TO NATO AND SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY FROM TIME TO TIME TO PLACE ONE OF ITS NATIONALS IN SENIOR POSITION. GOLDSCHLAG REVIEWED REASONS WHY SEVERAL POSITIONS ARE NOT OPEN TO CANADA (E.G., SYG, SACEUR, VARIOUS ASSISTANT SYG POSITIONS, ETC.) WHICH MAKE IT ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE THAT AT LEAST POSITION OF D/SYG NOT BECOME PERMANENT PROPERTY OF ANY ONE MEMBER STATE.

(C) ITALY HAD HELD D/SYG POSITION AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN THE PAST, AS WELL AS SYG POSITION, AND IT IS NOW SOMEONE'S ELSE TURN. GOLDSCHLAG STRESSED THAT GOC VIEW IS IN NO WAY ANTI-ITALIAN BUT IS BASED STRICTLY ON PRINCIPLE.

4. GOLDSCHLAG REMINDED DCM OF EARLIER CONVERSATIONS IN WHICH HE HAD REFERRED TO CANADA'S (INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER CONFIDENTIAL

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TRUDEAU'S DISSATISFACTION WITH HIGH-HANDED WAY IN WHICH LUNS RUNS NATO APPARATUS. GOLDSCHLAG SAID THIS EPISODE IS VIRTUALLY THE LAST STRAW FROM CANADA'S POINT OF VIEW. THEREFORE, GOC HAS DECIDED TO TAKE SOUNDINGS IN SELECTED FRIENDLY CAPITALS (WASHINGTON, BONN, LONDON, COPENHAGEN AND OSLO) TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL THAT NATO COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH CLEAR PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF SYG AND D/SYG, INCLUDING REQUIREMENT FOR FULL DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION BEFORE ANY CANDIDATE IS CONFIRMED. GOLDSCHLAG SAID INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE SUCH SOUNDINGS HAD BEEN ISSUED JANUARY 5 AFTER EXTAFH HAD RECEIVED HARDY'S VERY STRONG MESSAGE REPORTING ON HIS ENCOUNTER WITH LUNS EARLIER IN THE DAY.

5. GOLDSCHLAG DECLINED TO DISCLOSE NAME OF CANADIAN CANDIDATE, SINCE CURRENT CONTRETEMPS COULD CAUSE HIM SOME EMBARRASSMENT, ALTHOUGH HE CONFIRMED THAT CANDIDATE IS VERY SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH DIPLOMATIC AND DEFENSE EXPERIENCE. DUEMLING UNQUOTE VANCE

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